

**Abstract 581**

**TITLE:** Empowering Young Women: Confronting Sexism and Racism in Decision Making for HIV Prevention and Services

**AUTHORS:** Campbell, M; Johnson, T

**ISSUE:** In the decade from 1987 to 1997, the percentage of adolescent AIDS cases among female teens rose dramatically from 14 to 49%. However, prevention and services have failed to specifically address the needs of young women. In addition, young women have not had a voice nor have they been included in the decision making process about programs that might better serve their needs.

**SETTING:** National prevention and service agenda to include young women

**PROJECT:** The Young Women's Work Group of the Collaborative Group on Women and HIV/AIDS (co-sponsored by the PHS Office on Women's Health and Office of HIV/AIDS Policy) is a forum of youth and those who work with youth to address issues specific to HIV prevention and services for young women. The group has identified two projects: 1) essential components for a model HIV/AIDS program for young women and 2) the recruitment and training of young women to enhance involvement in decision making groups, to communicate their needs and to involve them in policy making concerns.

**RESULTS:** The young women who are co-chairs of the Work Group will present the findings. The document addresses the following areas: primary prevention, secondary prevention, and linkage to care/treatment. The impact of psychosocial issues for young women beyond the biomedical units of analysis will be addressed, as well as the need to expand public health perspectives to more effectively and positively address sexuality concerns of young women.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** This document should assist program planners in developing interventions that address the needs of young women. Innovative mechanisms, such as local support groups or the Internet, may be more useful in assuring consistent participation of young women than more traditional methods such as adult led forums, conference calls and national meetings.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Margaret Campbell

**Address:** 121 S. Charles St.

Boston, MA 02116

**Telephone:** (617) 988-2600 x209

**Fax:** (617) 988-2603

**E-mail:** [mcampbell@jrihealth.org](mailto:mcampbell@jrihealth.org)